

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Environmental Assessment

**DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0133-EA
Endurings Rock House-Anadarko Interconnect
Rights-of-Way UTU-89879 and UTU-89880**

PREPARING OFFICE

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Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vernal, Utah

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Chapter 1. Introduction

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1.1. Identifying Information:

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the potential impacts of Enduring Resources LLC (Enduring) proposed surface pipelines known as the Rock House-Anadarko Inter-Connect Lateral A and Lateral B pipelines, located in Uintah County, Utah. Enduring has a valid existing right to extract mineral resources from its Federal leases subject to the leases' terms and conditions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oil and gas leasing program encourages development of domestic oil and gas reserves and the reduction of U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources.

The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result from the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives to the Proposed Action. The EA assists the BLM in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to why any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. ("Significance" is defined by NEPA and is found in regulation 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.27). An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) statement. A FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the selected alternative would not result in "significant" environmental impacts (or effects) beyond those already addressed in the Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan (BLM 2008a). If the decision maker determines that this project has "significant" impacts following the analysis in the EA, then an EIS would be prepared for the project. If not, a Decision Record may be signed for the EA approving the alternative selected.

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

Rock House-Anadarko Inter-Connect

Lateral A and Lateral B pipelines

DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0133-EA

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

Lateral A:

T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 31, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Lateral B:

T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 31, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 11 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 5, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office -BLM Vernal Field Office and number DOI-BLM-UT-2014-0133-EA

1.1.4. Identify the subject function code, lease, serial, or case file number:

2881

Case file numbers UTU-89879 and UTU-89880

1.1.5. Applicant Name:

Enduring Resources LLC.

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

Private exploration and production from Federal oil and gas leases is an integral part of the BLM oil and gas leasing program under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) of 1920, as modified by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The operator has a valid existing right to extract mineral resources from State Leases, subject to the leases' terms and conditions.

The BLM's purpose is to respond to Enduring's request to obtain a right-of-way for the use of federal land to construct, operate, and maintain two, four (4) inch surface, natural gas pipelines (the proposed action) to interconnect the Rock House field and the Anadarko gas sales pipeline.

The BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment to address the impacts of the proposed action on the environment in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as NEPA.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

The project was posted to the eplanning NEPA register. Interest in the project was expressed, and a comment period will be held. Issues were identified by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix A). The checklist indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree that requires detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis, are described in Chapter 3 and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

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2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

Enduring Resources LLC (Enduring) proposes two pipelines to inter-connect between the Rock House field and an Anadarko gas sales pipeline to market natural gas production from Federal and State Lands. The pipelines would connect two existing pipelines. The proposed pipelines would be referred to as the Rock House-Anadarko Inter-Connect Lateral A and Lateral B pipelines. Two separate right-of-way authorizations (grants) would be issued if approved.

Lateral A Pipeline is 3,520 feet in length. The northeast end of this segment would tie directly in an existing pipeline (UTU-76880) approximately 725 feet north of the south boundary of Sec. 31, T. 10 S., R. 23E, and the southwest end of this pipeline would tie directly into another exiting pipeline (UTU-77673) approximately 906 feet south of the north boundary of Sec. 5, T. 11 S., R. 23 E.

Lateral B Pipeline is 2,136 feet in length on BLM lands and 2,239 feet in length on SITLA lands. The east end of this segment would tie directly into an existing pipeline (UTU-85508) approximately 725 feet south of the north boundary of Sec. 31 T. 10 S., R. 23 E., and the west end of this segment of the pipeline (located on SITLA lands) would tie into an existing pipeline located on the downstream side from the existing Rock House 2D-36 Well gas meter.

Both pipelines would be a 4 inch (4.5 O.D. - 4.124 I.D) surface, steel, low pressure natural gas gathering lines. The psi rating is a minimum of 1,000 #'s. No Hydrostatic testing is anticipated.

The proposed right-of-way widths being requested is 30 feet in width for both rights-of-way;

Lateral A: 3,520 feet in length, 30 feet wide and contains 2.42 acres, more or less.

An additional 30 foot wide by 50 foot long (0.06 acres) temporary work area would be needed at the two ties-ins to the existing pipelines located on federal lands.

Lateral B: 2,136 feet in length, 30 feet wide and contains 1.47 acres, more or less.

An additional 30 foot wide by 50 foot long (0.03 acres) temporary work area would be needed at the tie-in on federal lands.

Total permanent acres 3.89 plus or minus Temporary work area acres 0.09 plus or minus

Right-of-way locations on public lands in Uintah County are as follows:

Lateral A:

T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 31, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

Lateral B:

T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 31, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

T. 11 S., R. 23 E., SLM, Utah

sec. 5, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

It is anticipated that the pipelines can be constructed in 10 days. Two semi-trailer loads of 4 inch pipe (less than 30 tons) would be hauled from county and lease roads. No new roads would be constructed. All work forces shall stage in Vernal, Utah. Car-pooling shall be encouraged to reduce vehicle traffic.

The approximate work force and vehicles used shall consist of:

1. 3 Welders and welder truck (and 2 welder helpers)
2. 1 winch truck, driver and 2 helpers to move/place/unload pipe,
3. 1 side boom bulldozer, operator and helper
4. 1 supervisor and pickup truck
5. 4 semis and trailer loads to haul bulldozer and pipe, and
6. 1 backhoe, carrier truck and operator

Pipelines would be center line staked. Enduring employees would off-load pipe on flat terrain, and fabricate/weld within the right-of-way width. On steep terrain, pipe would be welded and staged within the right-of-way and then pulled/winched over steep grades. There would be no clearing or grading if possible.

The operator and its sub-contractors shall perform all operations in a good and workmanlike manner so as to ensure protection of the environment and the health and safety of the public. Flagman shall be employed during the construction of all road crossing and anytime county roads are being used as staging areas. An additional temporary work area (30 feet wide, 50 feet long, 0.003 acres) will be required at each end of the pipeline tie-ins on federal lands during construction (3 tie-in locations). Total acres 0.09 plus or minus.

Portable toilets shall be located at all sites when workers are present. All industrial wastes, toxic substances, and portable toilets' wastes shall be removed from the premises and delivered to an approved commercial disposal site.

Limited, if any, soil disturbance shall occur. No paved roads would be crossed. It is anticipated that few, if any, trees or shrubs would need to be removed during construction. Any re-seeding needed would be in accordance with the BLM instructions as determined by the Authorized Officer. No fertilizer is anticipated for this project.

It is anticipated that the pipelines integrity (steel, welded) would exceed the life of the project and require little, if any maintenance. The pipelines shall be unpainted.

No equipment, industrial wastes or toxic substances shall be stored on the rights-of-way. All pipeline inspections shall be conducted from the ground and would be inspected monthly. All vehicles shall carry fire extinguishers during construction and operation. An emergency plan addressing pipeline accidents shall be maintained for the entire life of the project.

When the pipelines are no longer in use; they shall be cleaned and then removed from the public lands. Any surface disturbance during removal shall be stabilized and re-vegetated per the Authorized Officer of the BLM.

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

Under the No Action Alternative, BLM would not approve the rights-of-way for the 4 inch surface pipelines. Enduring would not be able to inter-connect between the Rock House Field and an Anadarko Gas sales pipeline to market natural gas production from Federal and State Lands. As such the No Action Alternative would not cause any new surface disturbance. Ongoing management of federal lands within the project area would continue at current trends.

2.3. Conformance

The proposed pipelines addressed in the EA would be in conformance with the Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (October 31, 2008). The RMP/ROD decision allows for processing applications, permits, operating plans, mineral exchanges, and leases on public lands in accordance with policy and guidance and allows for management of public lands to support goals and objectives of other resources programs, respond to public requests for land use authorizations, and acquire administrative and public access where necessary (RMP/ROD p.86). It has been determined that the proposed action and alternative(s) would not conflict with other decisions throughout the plan.

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Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

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3.1. Migratory Birds (including raptors)

All migratory birds and their nests are protected from take or disturbance under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C., 703 et seq.). These protection laws were implemented for the protection of avian species. Unless permitted by regulations, it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any species covered under these Acts. In addition, Executive Order 13186 sets forth the responsibilities of federal agencies to further implement the provisions of these Acts by integrating bird conservation principles and practices into agency activities and by ensuring that federal actions evaluate the effects of actions and agency plans on protected avian species.

The BLM has reviewed district files and completed a field visit for raptor nesting and migratory bird habitat within all lands up to ½ mile of the proposed project areas. There are no known raptors nesting within ½ mile of interconnect north line; however, there are two documented red-tailed hawk nests in fair condition within ½ mile of interconnect south line. The following addresses migratory birds that may utilize the project area for nesting or foraging activities, including those species classified as Priority Species by Utah Partners-in-Flight. Utah Partners-in-Flight is a cooperative partnership among federal, state, and local government agencies as well as public organizations and individuals organized to emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives.

Desert/Pinion-Juniper/Shrub Areas: American robin, American white pelican, bald eagle, blue-gray gnatcatcher, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, black-chinned hummingbird, black-throated sparrow, bobolink, Brewer's blackbird, Brewer's sparrow, broad-tailed hummingbird, Cassin's kingbird, Clark's nutcracker, common raven, golden eagle, gray flycatcher, gray vireo, green-tailed towhee, juniper titmouse, mountain bluebird, pinion jay, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, short-eared owl, song sparrow, western burrowing owl, and western kingbird.

3.2. Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or Proposed Plant Species

Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

The Project Area occurs within the 2013 United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) federally listed *Sclerocactus ssp.* potential habitat polygon and outside of Core Conservation Areas (CCAs) established for the species.

Uinta Basin hookless cactus is a perennial herb and a member of the cactus family. It is Federally listed as threatened and is endemic to the Uinta Basin. It consists of a perennial succulent shoot, solitary or rarely branching, globose, ovoid or cylindrical. Individuals are usually 3 to 9 centimeters in diameter and 4 to 12 centimeters tall. Each spine cluster, areoles, usually consists of one large (15 to 29 millimeters) central spine, three to four lateral central spines, and six to ten radial spines. From late April to May, Uinta Basin hookless cactus produces 2.5 to 5-centimeter high, pink to violet flowers.

The ecological amplitude of Uinta Basin hookless cactus is wide, being found from clay badlands up to the pinyon-juniper habitat. The preferred habitat occurs on river benches, valley slopes, and rolling hills consisting of xeric, fine textured, clay soils, derived from the Duchesne River,

Green River, Mancos, and Uinta formations, overlain with a pavement of large, smooth, rounded cobble. The typical plant community in Uinta Basin hookless cactus habitat is the salt desert shrub community.

3.3. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics are areas having at least 5,000 acres in a natural or undisturbed condition, and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive forms of recreation. This information is documented in an April 2007 wilderness characteristics review completed by the Vernal FO (BLM 2007) and further discussed in the Vernal RMP. Non-WSA lands approved in the RMP to be managed for the protection of their wilderness characteristics were carried forward as BLM Natural Areas.

White River Inventory Unit

Both of the proposed pipelines occur within the boundary of White River non-wilderness lands with character inventory unit (21,210 Acres). The White River inventory unit was carried forward as a BLM Natural Area but with a reduction in acreage from 21,210 to 6,680. Both of the proposed pipelines fall outside of the BLM Natural Area boundary with portions located within the White River lands with wilderness characteristics inventory unit. The acreage not carried forward as a BLM Natural Area was considered to have high potential of oil and gas development with significant interest in additional leasing.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

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4.1. Proposed Action Alternative

4.1.1. Migratory Birds (including raptors)

As identified in Chapter 3, the project area contains migratory bird (including raptors) nesting and/or foraging habitat. Potential effects of the Proposed Action Alternative on avian species including red-tailed hawks include 1) direct loss or degradation of potential nesting and foraging habitats, 2) indirect disturbance from human activity (including harassment, displacement, and noise), and 3) increased direct impacts (collisions with vehicles). By following the mitigation measures outlined below these impacts would be minimized or completely negated.

Project activities are anticipated to disturb approximately 5.43 acres of migratory bird foraging and nesting habitat. Given the abundance of foraging habitat in the surrounding area, habitat losses are not expected to reduce raptor prey bases to levels where “take” would occur. Impacts to birds within the proposed project area would also be dependent upon the time when project activities would occur. If these activities occur in the late fall, most of the species would have left the area during winter migration. If construction activities were to occur during the spring or summer months it could cause birds to move into other adjacent habitats or into habitats where interspecific and intraspecific competition between species may increase. Surface and noise disturbance associated with project activities would be considered temporary and is anticipated to occur during typical working hours; however, by following the mitigation measure outlined below impacts to migratory birds would be minimized or completely negated.

4.1.1.1. Mitigation Measures

Project activities on the interconnect south line are not allowed from March 1 – August 15 to minimize impacts during the red-tailed hawk nesting season.

4.1.2. Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or Proposed Plant Species

Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

The proposed well pad and a portion of the access road and pipeline is located within an area that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has identified as being potential habitat for Uinta Basin hookless cactus. The proposed project was surveyed in April 2014 by Kleinfelder Inc. (Kleinfelder) to a distance of 300 feet from the edge of both sides of the proposed surface pipeline corridor. During this survey, no populations or individual plants were identified.

As there are no individuals within the proposed Project Area, no direct physical damage would occur to Uinta Basin hookless cactus individuals as a result of the Proposed Action.

Possible dispersed direct and indirect negative impacts which may result from implementation of the Proposed Action include: loss of suitable habitat, loss of habitat and forage opportunities for pollinators of the species, habitat modification by invasive weed species which may compete with individuals, accidental spray or drift of herbicides used during invasive plant control, and the deposition of fugitive dust from construction activities and vehicle traffic on unpaved roads. Due

to these indirect negative impacts the Proposed Action warrants a “*may affect, is not likely to adversely affect*” determination for Uinta Basin hookless cactus.

Discovery Stipulation: Reinitiation of section 7 consultation with the USFWS would be sought immediately if any loss of plants or occupied habitat for Uinta Basin hookless cactus is anticipated as a result of project activities.

4.1.3. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Impacts could include loss of naturalness and loss of opportunities for solitude or primitive unconfined recreation. Additional impacts could include loss of size that may occur from development should the proposed development segregate portions of the wilderness characteristics less than 5,000 acres from the main body of wilderness characteristics. This was anticipated in the Vernal RMP as it states on pg. 33 and 34 that some areas were not selected to be BLM Natural Areas because they possess high potential for oil and gas resources and currently have large portions of lands leased. In this case, the White River non-wilderness land with wilderness characteristics was retained but with a reduction in acreage to 6,680 acres. The acres not retained were considered to have high potential for oil and gas development with significant interest in additional leasing. Where development occurs, wilderness characteristics would be lost.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

4.2. No Action Alternative

4.2.1. Migratory Birds (including raptors)

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct or indirect effects to migratory birds, including raptors. Current land use trends in the area would continue which would mainly include increased oil and gas development activities.

4.2.2. Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or Proposed Plant Species

Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to Uinta Basin hookless cactus or its associated habitat from surface-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use.

4.2.3. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct disturbance or indirect effects to lands with wilderness characteristics from surface-disturbing activities associated with the proposed project. Current land use trends in the area would continue, including increased industrial development, increased off-highway vehicles (OHV) traffic, and increased recreation use.

4.3. Cumulative Impacts Analysis

A cumulative impact is defined in CEQ regulations (40 CFR §1508.7) as “the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions.” Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively major actions taking place over a period of time. The cumulative impact area varies by resource.

4.3.1. Migratory Birds (including raptors)

The cumulative impact analysis area for migratory birds is defined as the Asphalt Wash – White River Hydrologic Unit Boundary consisting of approximately 121,814 acres. This hydrologic unit boundary was chosen for cumulative impact analysis as this best represents a soil and vegetation habitat type avian species found within the project area would utilize in whole. Future actions of the Proposed Action could increase human presence in the area, fragment and manipulate the surrounding habitats, and increase the presence of non-native invasive plant species. Further introduction of non-native invasive plant species could adversely impact migratory birds that are dependent upon nativespecies for their survival. In general surface disturbance would probably have negative impacts on wildlife species and would favor non-native and readily adaptive species.

Impacts to migratory birds in the cumulative impact analysis area would be dependent upon the season of project activities. Any activities completed in the late fall would less likely have a direct impact to avian species because many of the species would have left for winter grounds. The applied mitigation measure associated with interconnect south line will further limit disturbance to avian species within the area. In addition to displacement caused by project activities the Proposed Action Alternative would add the temporary removal of up to approximately 5.43 acres of potential nesting and foraging habitat for migratory birds. The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

4.3.2. Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or Proposed Plant Species

Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus (*Sclerocactus wetlandicus*)

The Project Area is located almost entirely within an area that the USFWS has identified as potential habitat for *Sclerocactus* species. Because we do not have an accurate delineation between the ranges for the *Sclerocactus* species, we are including information on Uinta Basin hookless cactus as well as Pariette Cactus. The project consists of two surface pipelines and would not add any new disturbance to the species’ known habitat ranges.

The CIAA for Uinta Basin hookless cactus is the area delineated by the USFWS as potential habitat for the species. This area covers approximately 537,564 acres on BLM, Ute tribal, State of Utah, and privately held lands. Within the CIAA, there are approximately 1,875 miles of roads. Past, present and reasonably foreseeable disturbance from oil and gas will affect 44,698 acres (8.3% of the CIAA), as shown in Table 4.3.1–1. Cumulative impacts include dust impacts to plants, and plant and pollinator habitat destruction. Surface disturbance is a good indicator of the extent of these cumulative impacts.

Table 4.3.1–1. Cumulative Impacts Analysis for Uinta Basin Hookless Cactus

	Project Area Acreage	Surface Disturbance Analyzed	Project Area Acreage within the CIAA	Surface Disturbance within the CIAA ¹
Ongoing Field Development				
Chapita Wells-Stagecoach Area	31,872	1,735	22,678	1,235
Gasco Natural Gas Field Development EIS	236,165	3,604	77,339	1,180
Greater Deadman Bench Oil and Gas Producing Region EIS	98,785	1,239	22,444	282
Greater Natural Buttes Project EIS	162,911	8,147	97,529	4,877
North Alger Natural Gas Expansion Project EA	2,320	192	943	78
North Chapita Natural Gas Well Development Project EA	31,872	1,735	9,191	500
River Bend Unit Infill Development EA	17,719	924	14,892	823
Rock Point EDA Leasing and Exploratory Drilling EA	92,098	340	11,344	42
Saddletree Draw Leasing and Rock House Development EA	4,826	106	4,774	105
West Bonanza Area Natural Gas Well Development Project EA	24,813	608	1,070	26
West Tavaputs EIS	137,930	1,603	30,704	357
Past Developments and Current and Future Developments Not Covered by a Field Development NEPA Document				
729 abandoned wells, ³	NA ⁴	NA	NA	3,565 acres
5,239 existing wells, ³	NA	NA	NA	19,158 acres
752 proposed well ³	NA	NA	NA	2,377 acres
Field Development Proposals				
Greater Chapita Wells Natural Gas Infill Project EIS	40,027	3,696	31,741	2,931
Monument Butte Area Oil and Gas Development Project EIS	119,850	15,612	43,964	5,727
Randlett EDA Area Programmatic Leasing and Exploration Project	53,380	2,613	28,817	1,411
Total CIAA disturbance from oil and gas				
	--	--	--	44,674 acres (8.3%)
Current Project				
Proposed Action	NA	NA	NA	24.07
No Action	NA	NA	NA	0
Total CIAA disturbance from oil and gas				

*Chapter 4 Environmental Effects:
Federally Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or
Proposed Plant Species*

	--	--	--	44,698 acres (8.3%)
1 Assumes surface disturbance was authorized evenly across the analysis area of the document.				
2 Uses the assumption contained within the Greater Uinta Basin Cumulative Impacts Technical Support Document.				
3 As of 4/8/2013				
4 NA = not applicable				

Due to inclusions of areas of unsuitable habitat within the potential habitat area, the total acreage of suitable habitat is less than 537,564 acres. However, a complete survey of suitable habitat has not been performed and thus the amount of suitable habitat has not been quantified. Impacts to the species from past, current, and reasonably foreseeable actions may be greater or smaller than those described for the total area depending upon the exact distribution of actions relative to suitable habitat.

4.3.3. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The CIAA for Non WSA Lands with Wilderness Characteristics is the inventory unit boundary. The rationale for this boundary is that the inventory unit is the only non-WSA land found to contain wilderness characteristics that may be potentially affected by the proposed management activities. The cumulative effects and the area of impact would be the same as outlined in section 4.10.2 and 4.23.8 of the Vernal Field Office RMP (2008). The past, present, and foreseeable future actions with the potential to contribute to surface disturbance include development of new and existing mineral rights (leases) and/or realty actions (for example, pipeline or road rights of way). The proposed action combined with these actions would result in additional lost wilderness characteristics within the White River inventory unit; however, this level of development was analyzed and accepted by the decision in the VFO RMP. Surface disturbance is a good estimate of the level of impacts. Past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities have impacted approximately 270 acres of land within the White River wilderness characteristics area boundary. The Proposed Action would impact 3.89 acres of land for the life of the project. The No Action Alternative would not result in an accumulation of impacts.

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Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

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Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Information on Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (17 USC 1531)	Consultation is pending finalization of the EA analysis.
Utah State Historic Preservation Office	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106	SHPO consultation was initiated on 9/9/2013 and concluded on 9/19/2013.
Native American Tribes	Government to Government Consultation	Tribal consultations are covered under the GNBU EIS and RDG EIS.

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Chapter 6. List of Preparers

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INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM CHECKLIST

Project Title: Enduring Resources Rock House-Anadarko Inter-Connect Pipelines

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0133-EA

File/Serial Number: UTU-89879 and UTU-89880

Project Leader: Cindy Bowen

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NI	Air Quality & Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Emissions will occur from vehicles in the project area, but those impacts will be short term & transitory so they will not be detectable by monitors or models. No standards have been set by EPA or other regulatory agencies for greenhouse gases. In addition, the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is still in its earliest stages of formulation. Global scientific models are inconsistent, and regional or local scientific models are lacking so that it is not technically feasible to determine the net impacts to climate due to greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions associated with this action and its alternative(s) would be negligible.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The proposed project is not in a BLM Natural Area, per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NI	Cultural: Archaeological Resources	No sites eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are identified within the APE of the proposed project. SHPO consultation was initiated on 9/9/2013 and concluded on 9/19/2013.	Cameron Cox	7/11/2014
NI	Cultural: Native American Religious Concerns	Tribal consultations are covered under the GNBU EIS and RDG EIS. The proposed project will not hinder access to or use of Native American religious sites.	Cameron Cox	7/11/2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NP	Designated Areas: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	The proposed project is not in an ACEC per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NP	Designated Areas: Wild and Scenic Rivers	The proposed project is not in a Wild and Scenic Rivers area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NP	Designated Areas: Wilderness Study Areas	No wilderness areas have been designated by the U. S. Congress on BLM lands in the VFO. The proposed project is not in an Wilderness/WSA area per the Green River District, Vernal Field Office RMP/ROD (2008) and the GIS layers database.	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NI	Environmental Justice	No minority or economically disadvantaged communities or populations would be disproportionately adversely affected by the proposed action or alternatives because there are no such communities or populations located in the project area.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
NI	Farmlands (prime/unique)	No prime or unique farmlands as identified by the NRCS are located within the project area.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No fuels/fire management projects or needs present per VFO GIS data base	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
NI	Geology/Minerals/Energy Production	Surface pipelines with little or no surface disturbance —no adverse impacts	Elizabeth Gamber	6/27/2014
NI	Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds, Soils & Vegetation	Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds (IP/NW): Invasive and Noxious weeds are present in and near the Project Area. A weed management plan included with the site specific reclamation plan would be required. This would outline EOG's plan for weed management, control and removal. If pesticides are to be used EOG must obtain a PUP from the BLM Authorized Officer. If weed management plan is followed, then an increase in weeds in the Project Area is not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. Soils and Vegetation: The Proposed Action consists of surface pipelines that would not require disturbance of surface soils or removal of vegetation. If soils are disturbed or vegetation removed during installation of the pipelines, these areas of disturbance would be subject to reclamation measures, including recontouring and stabilization of surface soils, seeding with an approved seed mix, and monitoring for revegetation success.	Christine Cimiluca	7–21–2014

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Lands/Access	The proposed area is located within the VFORMP/ROD area, which allows for oil and gas development with associated road, pipeline and power line rights-of-way. No existing land uses would be changed or modified by the implementation of the Proposed Action; therefore there would be no impact.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
PI	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)	The project was surveyed as part of the White River Inventory Unit (Vernal RMP, 2008) and found to contain wilderness character. This project area was not, however, carried forward as a BLM Natural Area.	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NI	Livestock Grazing & Rangeland Health Standards	<p>Livestock Grazing: The proposed pipeline project is located within the Olsen AMP Sheep Grazing Allotment. The allotment is seasonally permitted from November 1 to June 15 with up to 9,268 AUMs. The proposed pipeline and the proposed right of way will have very little effect on the livestock grazing. No new disturbance would occur other than increasing the traffic during construction on the existing roads. The proposal is consistent with multiple use of public lands and other oil & gas activities in the area. It is not anticipated that this proposal would negatively impact grazing operations. There are no known range improvements in this allotment that would be impacted by this proposal.</p> <p>Rangeland Health Standards: This proposal is within the Olsen AMP Allotment. This proposal is not expected to affect Rangeland Health Standards in this allotment.</p>	Craig Newman	7/9/14
NP	Paleontology	Surface pipelines with little or no surface disturbance; no localities present on GIS Layer	Elizabeth Gamber	6/27/2014
NI	Plants: BLM Sensitive	<p>The following UT BLM Sensitive plant species are present or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: <i>Yucca sterilis</i>, <i>Cryptantha barnebyi</i> and <i>Cryptantha grahamii</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy soils in the vicinity of the proposed project may provide suitable habitat for <i>Yucca sterilis</i>. However, no populations are present. Given the exclusively clonal nature of the species, the potential for future establishment is negligible. • Suitable habitat for Barneby's catseye (<i>Cryptantha barnebyi</i>) consists of domed or gently sloping white shale knolls of the Green River Formation, mostly in shadscale and pinyon-juniper communities at 1850-2400 m elevation. This habitat is not present in the Project Area and the Proposed Action is not anticipated to impact this species. 	Christine Cimiluca	7-21-2014

Determination	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable habitat for Graham's catseye (<i>Cryptantha grahamii</i>) is on Green River shales in mixed desert shrub, sagebrush or mountain shrub vegetation elevations from 5,000 -7,400 feet. This habitat (Green River shale) is not present in the Project Area, and no populations or individuals were documented during the 2014 surveys of the Project Area. 		
PI	Plants: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate	<p>The following Federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species is present or expected in the same or an adjacent subwatershed as the proposed project: Pariette cactus (<i>Sclerocactus brevispinus</i>) and Uinta Basin hookless cactus (<i>Sclerocactus wetlandicus</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pariette cactus is restricted to the Pariette and Castle Peak Draws and the surrounding benches. Therefore, the proposed project is not located within potential habitat for Pariette cactus. • The proposed project is located within potential habitat for Uinta Basin hookless cactus. 	Christine Cimiluca	7-21-2014
NP	Plants: Wetland/Riparian	The project is not located within a wetlands/riparian zone per the Vernal Field Office GIS data layers and according to our 2008 Vernal RMP.	James Hereford II	7/16/2014
NI	Recreation	<p>No developed recreation sites/trails or Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) exist within the project area. Limited recreational use in the area. Considered part of the Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), where limited recreation management takes place.</p> <p>Recreational use of off highway vehicles (OHVs) is restricted to existing roads and trails. The permitted use OHVs for stone collection would not be subject to this restriction.</p>	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NI	Socio-Economics	No impact to the social or economic status of the county or nearby communities would occur from this project due to its small size in relation to ongoing development throughout the basin.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
NI	Visual Resources	Proposed project is located within VRM Class IV per VFO GIS data base, the action would be allowed under class IV objectives	Dan Gilfillan	7/3/14
NI	Wastes (hazardous/solid)	No chemicals subject to reporting under SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,000 pounds would be used, produced, stored, transported, or disposed of annually in association with the project. Trash and other waste materials would be cleaned up and removed immediately after completion of operations.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Water: Floodplains	The proposed project takes place in an area inundated by dry ephemeral washes and mainly Gravelly Sandy Loam soils. The project will not affect the Saddle Tree 100 year floodplain to a level that would require detailed analysis, since the pipelines are on the surface and will not disturb soils, down-gradient environments will maintain current levels of floodplain cycling.	James Hereford II	7/16/2014
NI	Water: Groundwater Quality	Surface pipeline, little to no surface disturbance- no adverse impact on ground water	Elizabeth Gamber	6/27/2014
NI	Water: Hydrologic Conditions (stormwater)	The proposed project takes place in an area identified as being part of the White, Lower White, Asphalt Wash, and Saddle Tree Draw-White River hydrologic unit boundaries. Everything that flows through this proposed project area ends up in those watersheds. This area is also been identified as being mainly dry ephemeral washes in a sandy loam environment. These soils are moderate to high in infiltration rates and low to moderate in runoff rates. Since this is a surface laid line with no real disturbance of these sandy loam soils, no affect to hydrologic conditions will be created that would require detailed analysis.	James Hereford II	7/16/2014
NP	Water: Surface Water Quality	No surface waters exist on the proposed project area as per on the ground investigations and through VFO GIS analysis. The area is mainly dry ephemeral washes that support storm water runoff events and seasonal runoff during spring months. This projects surface line will not affect surface water, since no disturbance of soils from the pipeline is expected.	James Hereford II	7/16/2014
NP	Water: Waters of the U.S.	No waters of the U.S. will be affected by the current proposed action as per on the ground investigations and through VFO GIS analysis. Since this is a surface laid pipeline its expected that no soils will leave the area identified and affect waters of the U.S. downgradient.	James Hereford II	7/16/2014
NP	Wild Horses	No herd areas or herd management areas are present per VFO GIS database.	Cindy Bowen	6-25-2014
PI	Wildlife: Migratory Birds (including raptors)	The project is located within migratory bird nesting and foraging habitat. In review of BLM data and past raptor reports there are no documented raptor nests located within 1/2 mile of the interconnect north line; however there are two red-tailed hawk nests in fair condition and within 1/2 mile of the interconnect south line.	Brandon McDonald	7/10/2014

Determina- tion	Resource/Issue	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NI	Wildlife: Non-USFWS Designated	Though general wildlife may occur within the project area the BLM does not recognize crucial habitat for fish and wildlife species. It is likely the project activities would temporarily displace wildlife species during the duration of the project, but would not cause a decline in population or individuals.	Brandon McDonald	7/10/2014
NP	Wildlife: Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate	In review of district files and a field review there are no threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species (including their associated habitats) within or near the project area. In addition, the proposed project area is not located within greater sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat or Preliminary General Habitat.	Brandon McDonald	7/10/2014
NI	Woodlands/Forestry	The proposed project will have no impact on Woodland/Forestry resources.	David Palmer	7/18/2014

FINAL REVIEW:			
Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator			
Authorized Officer			